

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric)	D.T.E. 02-80A
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JOINT MOTION TO DEFER EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

Pursuant to 220 C.M.R. § 1.04(5)(c), Boston Edison Company d/b/a NSTAR Electric (the “Company”) and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth (the “Attorney General”) (together, the “Parties”) request that the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the “Department”) defer evidentiary hearings in the above-captioned proceeding, now scheduled for July 22, 2003, for the purpose of allowing sufficient time and attention to be committed to finalize settlement negotiations between the Parties.

The Parties have reached tentative agreement on virtually all issues, and expect to reach a full settlement with a modest amount of additional time. The Parties have made considerable progress toward resolving all issues and need the time to complete negotiations and prepare the settlement documents for filing with the Department. Good cause exists to grant this motion because the expenditure of resources by all involved (including the Department) will be reduced if the Parties are able to conclude a settlement of issues rather than proceeding to hearings. There are no other parties to the proceeding who will be affected by the requested deferral.

Accordingly, the parties request that the Department suspend the procedural schedule insofar as it requires the commencement of evidentiary hearings on July 22, 2003. The Parties will report back to the Hearing Officer on or before August 15, 2003

with a status report on the settlement discussions and a proposed procedural schedule for going forward with evidentiary hearings should such hearings be necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,

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d/b/a NSTAR Electric

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